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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,576	11/20/2001	Tomohiro Yamana	1614.1202	8746
21171	7590	04/13/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			KIM, KENNETH S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2111	5
DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/988,576

Applicant(s)

YAMANA ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth S KIM

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

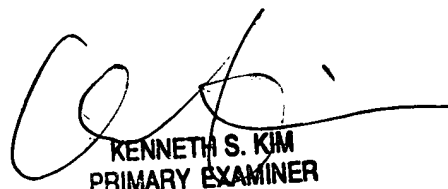
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


KENNETH S. KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 23.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 1-10 are presented for examination.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Joshi et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,604,909.

Joshi et al teaches the invention as claimed in claim 1 including an information processing device comprising:

- (a) an mxn instruction buffer (50; col. 3, line 57),
- (b) a plurality of instruction executing parts (fig. 3; functional units) executing a plurality of instructions in parallel (col. 1, line 13),
- (c) a control circuit selecting a predetermined number of instructions from said mxn instruction buffer and distributing said instructions to said instruction executing part (58, 68, 22), and

further teaches as in claims 2-9,

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(d) wherein said control circuit comprises n selection circuit (68), each selecting an instruction from m instructions in the corresponding column (col. 3, line 65) – claim 2

(e) wherein said controlling refers to information in each instruction indicating whether the instruction is simultaneously executable (for determination to be dispatched simultaneously for execution) – claim 3,

(f) 1xn buffer (18) holding a predetermined number of instructions selected by the first selection circuit and a second selection circuit distributing said instructions to said instruction executing part based on instruction type information (well known in the art) – claims 4 and 5,

(g) wherein said control circuit selects instructions based on conditions related to length of instructions (when the instructions are of variable length) – claims 6 and 7,

(h) wherein the number of slots corresponding to the number of execution parts are greater than the number of columns (more functional units can be implemented) – claim 8,

(i) wherein said mxn instruction buffer receives instructions from memory which does not include any NOP instructions (NOP usually does not appear in the instruction stream read from memory; design choice) – claim 9.

The computer system claim 10 is equivalently rejected based on the same reason.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Meltzer et al taught a method of filling instruction buffer from instruction cache cell array for parallel execution.

Kahle et al taught a method of providing instruction to instruction buffer from instruction queue for parallel execution.

Fleck et al taught a method of dispatching instructions based on instruction length and type.


Mehra taught a method of distributing instructions to larger number of functional units using selection circuits.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth S KIM whose telephone number is (703) 305-9693. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-17:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

April 9, 2004


KENNETH S. KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER